GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5310
ANSWERED ON:28.04.2003
LAND UNDER IRRIGATION
HARIBHAI PARTHIBHAI CHAUDHARY;LAXMAN GILUWA

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether more than 70 per cent of the total agricultural land is still unirrigated and it depends on rains and the impredictability of nature;

(b) if so, the percentage of unirrigated land in each state and union territory and the details of unutilised irrigation capacity at the end of the last three five year plans;

(c) the unutilised irrigation capacity due to inter-state river water disputes;

(d) whether a new irrigation policy is proposed to be formulated; and

(e) if so, the steps taken so far in this direction and the success achieved by the Government in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SMT. BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY)

(a) As per Land Use Statistics brought out by the Ministryof Agriculture for the year 1998-99 (latest), the Net Sown Area (Cultivated Area) of the country was 142.60 million hectare of which Net Irrigated Area was 57.05 million hectare, thereby leaving 60% of the Net Sown Area as unirrigated or, dependent on rainwater for irrigation.

(b) The percentage of unirrigated land in each State and Union Territory is given at Annexure-I. The position of the unutilized capacity at the end of last three Five Year Plans is as under:

(In Million hectare)

Plan	Capacity created	Capacity utilised	Unutilised capacity
At the end of VII Plan	76.52	68.59	7.93
At the end of VIII Plan	86.25	77.21	9.04
At the end of IX Plan	95.40	85.41	9.99

(c) As per assessment made by Central Water Commission, an irrigation potential of about 696.5 thousand hectare remains locked up in the country due to inter-state river water disputes.

(d)&(e) A draft Irrigation Management Policy has been finalised by the National Water Board and is to be placed before the National Water Resources Council headed by the Prime Minister for consideration.